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Joint Committee on Academic Planning
Thursday, September 14, 2017
9am-11am
President's Conference Room
Green Hall
MINUTES

Members Present: Donald DeHayes, Provost and Chairperson; Marilyn Barbour, Laura Beauvais, Matt Bodah, Nancy Eaton, Hillary Leonard, Leslie Mahler, Ann Morrissey, Michael Rice, Riley Temple (Student Senate) Travis Williams, Nasser Zawia

Members Absent: Mayrai Gindy, Dan Graney, Michael Sullivan, Naomi Thompson, Ryan Buck (Student Senate), Oleg Kazakov (Graduate Student Association)

Guest: Matthew Bodah, Interim Vice Provost for Academic Personnel & Budget

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m. and each member present introduced themselves.

Ongoing Business

Provost Don DeHayes spoke about the ongoing discussion with the Rhode Island Office of Postsecondary Education around "funding formulas" for Rhode Island higher education. We are working closely with the new commissioner to try and ensure that the resulting plan is viable, rational and depoliticized, because whatever comes out of these discussions could have a long life and affect URI's ability to fulfill our core mission.

Vice Provost Matthew Bodah updated the committee on the progress of URI's self-study effort for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation evaluation. Our self-assessment has been completed and sent to NEASC – it was a long and intensive community effort to get the report done, and the site visit will take place October 23-25, 2017. To prepare for the site visit, we will place a public notice in the Providence Journal, we will need to reserve work space for the site team (first floor of the Alumni Center) and we will hold three simultaneous open meetings for students and faculty to hear their findings. We will need students to serve as escorts to get them around campus, and we will need administrators to stay flexible in order to meet with them if requested. We want to make this a positive opportunity for reflection, so that we benefit from the process. JCAP will be the point committee to receive and read the NEASC team's findings and help us respond. JCAP members will be invited to attend the final report presentation on Wednesday, October 25th.

Academic Summit 2018

(See handout) Dr. Hillary Leonard led a planning discussion to select the theme for January 2018's Academic Summit. She explained that the goals are to increase faculty networks and build and strengthen URI's scholarly community, and to provide an event that allows faculty to engage with planning and strategic objectives of the University through an interactive event that engages participants to innovate in support of the prospective future challenges that may face universities and URI specifically. The event would work to:

- Build community by engaging faculty in work towards a common goal (the exercises)
- Tap into the collective and diverse expertise of the community.
- Create opportunities for shared emotional connections (can happen around a shared, HIGH Quality experience or event).
- Design the experience to create feelings of membership within URI

The discussion included a plan to reach out to new faculty to get their participation and also to involve students to some degree with the hope of building positive connections between programs and encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration and future-oriented thinking and approaches that will address emerging trends. We would like the Summit to focus on engaging faculty in a dynamic energetic way to consider reinventing approaches to academic planning, learning, and the structure for academic

programs. The committee endorsed the idea of bringing in an innovation expert facilitator/consultant. Ann Morrissey and Hillary Leonard will follow up and work together to form a planning committee and finalize the theme.

The committee also received a proposal for Academic Summit 2019 from Professor Kathleen Torrens. For the Academic Summit 2019, she proposed a general theme around re-imagining our pedagogy with Dr. Robin DeRosa of Plymouth State University providing the keynote for the event. The committee determined that it is too soon to decide for 2019. Additionally, the committee reiterated that it is often their preference to prominently feature the talent of URI, rather than bring in someone from another university. They will encourage Dr. Torrens to host the program through some other venue as the committee believed that the speaker and program theme would generate interest from faculty.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Next meeting will be October 12, 2017, 3pm-4:30pm